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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2813****OFFICIAL****PATENT
5298-04100/PM00012****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Application of:
Qiao et al.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Filed: September 14, 2000

For: **METHOD OF FORMING SELF
ALIGNED CONTACTS**Group Art Unit: 2813
Examiner: Thanhha S. Pham

Att. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via
facsimile or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient
postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313, on the date indicated below:

December 31, 2003
Date*Pamela Gerik*
Pamela Gerik**AMENDMENT: RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116****Box: AF**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir/ Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2003 to further
highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.